REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of July 22, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9-12 have been amended. Claims 1-12 are now pending after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,233,565 ("Lewis"). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 recites a system to enhance safety of computer file distribution. The system includes one or more electronic records stored in a server computer wherein each record contains information about a particular file. Each record can be retrieved as a web page when a URL containing a hash value computed from said particular file using a one-way hash function is presented to said server computer.

Lewis describes a system to execute a financial transaction over the Internet (Abstract). A customer can purchase postage over the Internet using the system (col. 12, lines 1-20). The customer registers to use the web service and in turn receives a license number, customer number and customer password (col. 15, lines 5-40). The customer inputs the customer number and password to download the required software (col. 15, lines 47-64). The customer then receives a public key and a private key pair file in encrypted form (*id.*). To ensure the integrity of the key, a hash of the key file is embedded in the key file sent to the customer and the whole file is encrypted with a hash of the user's password (col. 22, lines 59-62). When the customer attempts to open the key file, the customer's password is converted into an MD5 hash (col. 22, lines 63-67). The first 64-bits of the hash are used to decrypt the key file (*id.*). The key file, without the embedded hash, is hashed and compared with the hash embedded in the key file (col. 23, lines 1-8). If the hashes match, the key is loaded into RAM memory (*id.*).

Lewis describes using a hash of a file to ensure the integrity of a key. However, Lewis does not suggest or disclose sending a URL containing a hash value over the Internet. For at least this reason, the Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Lewis.

Amended claim 2 recites a system to enhance safety of computer file distribution. The system includes a user terminal operable to verify the authenticity of a particular file. The user terminal is operable to retrieve from a server computer a web page that contains information about a particular file, including submitting a URL containing a computed hash to the server computer.

As discussed above, Lewis does not suggest or disclose sending a URL containing a hash. Thus, Lewis does not suggest or disclose a user terminal operable to submit a URL containing a computed hash to a server computer. For at least this reason, the Applicant submits that amended claim 2 is not anticipated. Claims 3-6 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 2 and are similarly not anticipated.

Amended claim 9 recites a system to enhance safety of computer file distribution over a computer network. The system includes a means for responding to client requests for information concerning a first file, the client requests including a URL containing a hash value computed from the first file, the means for responding operable to retrieve an appropriate electronic record associated with the first file and forward the information as a web page to a requesting client computer.

Lewis does not mention a URL containing a hash value and does not suggest or disclose a means for responding to client requests for information concerning a first file, the client requests including a URL containing a hash value computed from the first file. The Applicant therefore submits that Lewis does not anticipate claim 9 as amended.

Amended claim 10 recites a system to enhance safety of computer file distribution over a computer network. The system includes a user terminal operable to verify the authenticity of a particular file. The user terminal is operable to retrieve from a server computer a web page that contains information about the particular file, including submitting a URL containing a computed hash to the server computer.

As described above, Lewis does not suggest or disclose a user terminal operable to submit a URL containing a computed hash to a server computer. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that claim 10 is not anticipated by Lewis. Amended claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is similarly not anticipated.

Amended claim 12 recites a method for enhancing safety of computer file distribution. The method includes retrieving from a server computer a web page that contains information about a first file, including submitting a URL containing a computed hash to the server computer.

Lewis does not suggest or disclose a step of submitting a URL containing a computed hash to a server computer. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that claim 12 is not anticipated by Lewis.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that claim 1-6 and 8-12 be allowed.

Section 103 Rejections

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,915 (Aucsmith). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 7 depends directly from amended claim 2 and necessarily includes the limitations of claim 2.

Neither Aucsmith nor Lewis suggest or disclose a user terminal operable to submit a URL containing a computed hash to a server computer. Because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least this feature, the Applicant submits that no *prima facie* showing of obviousness has been established with respect to this claim, which is therefore allowable over the combination of Aucsmith and Lewis.
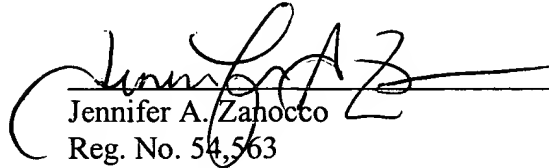
No fee is believed to be due. If, however, there are any applicable charges or credits, please apply them to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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